

EDMUND G. BROWN JR.  
GOVERNORMATTHEW RODRIGUEZ  
SECRETARY FOR  
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION**Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board**

March 11, 2013

Mr. Melvin K. Squires  
MAG Investments, Limited  
1575 El Verano Drive  
Thousand Oaks, California 91362

CERTIFIED MAIL  
RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED  
7011 2970 0000 0645 2123

**SUBJECT: REQUIREMENT FOR TECHNICAL REPORTS PURSUANT TO CALIFORNIA WATER CODE SECTION 13267 ORDER NO. R4-2013-0031**

**SITE: FORMER COMMERCIAL INSPECTION SERVICES, INCORPORATED/MAG INVESTMENTS, LIMITED, 156 WEST PROVIDENCIA AVENUE, BURBANK, CALIFORNIA (FILE NO. 109.0884)**

Dear Mr. Squires:

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles Region (Regional Board) is the public agency with primary responsibility for the protection of ground and surface water quality for all beneficial uses within major portions of the Los Angeles and Ventura Counties, including the referenced site.

The Regional Board is investigating potential sources for groundwater contamination within the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) San Fernando Valley Superfund Site (Superfund Site). It is known that groundwater within the Superfund Site, including the vicinity of the former Commercial Inspection Services, Incorporated (CIS, Inc.) facility, is contaminated with volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and heavy metals, particularly chromium.

Regional Board staff has reviewed technical information and historical documents contained in Regional Board files for the property located at 156 West Providencia Avenue, in the City of Burbank, California (the Site). Regional Board files indicate that CIS, Inc., owned by MAG Investments, Limited, occupied the Site between 1980 and 1994. CIS, Inc. operations at the Site consisted of non-destructive testing of aerospace hardware, including x-ray, fluorescent, magnetic particle, impregnation, ultrasonic and cleaning. Regional Board files state that chromium containing compounds, including sodium dichromate dihydrate and chrome acid, were used and stored during CIS, Inc. operations at the Site.

The potential impact to the subsurface soils, as a result of CIS, Inc. testing operations at the Site, has not been determined. Enclosed is a Regional Board Order for technical report requirements pursuant to California Water Code (CWC) Section 13267 Order No. R4-2013-0031 (Order). As the responsible party, you are required to comply with the Order to prepare and submit a Subsurface Soil Investigation Workplan in order to evaluate the potential for soil and groundwater contamination.

MARIA MEHRANIAN, CHAIR | SAMUEL UNGER, EXECUTIVE OFFICER

320 West 4th St., Suite 200, Los Angeles, CA 90013 | [www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles)

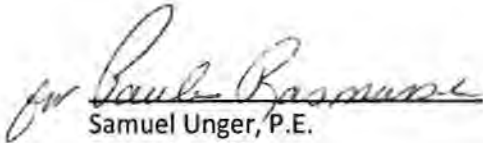
Mr. Melvin K. Squires  
MAG Investments, Limited

- 2 -

March 11, 2013

Should you have any questions related to this project, please contact Ms. Luz Arteaga via telephone at (213) 576-6783 or via email at [luz.arteaga@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:luz.arteaga@waterboards.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Samuel Unger", is written over a horizontal line.

Samuel Unger, P.E.  
Executive Officer

Enclosure: California Water Code Section 13267 Order No. R4-2013-0031

cc: Ms. Lisa Hanusiak, USEPA Region IX  
Mr. Leo Chan, City of Glendale  
Mr. Bill Mace, City of Burbank Water Supply Department  
Mr. Vahe Dabbaghian, Los Angeles Department of Water & Power  
Mr. Milad Taghavi, Los Angeles Department of Water & Power  
Mr. Richard Slade, ULARA Watermaster

**Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board**

**ORDER TO PROVIDE A TECHNICAL REPORT FOR  
SUBSURFACE SOIL INVESTIGATION  
CALIFORNIA WATER CODE SECTION 13267 ORDER NO. R4-2013-0031**

**DIRECTED TO MAG INVESTMENTS, LIMITED**

**FORMER COMMERCIAL INSPECTION SERVICES, INCORPORATED  
156 WEST PROVIDENCIA AVENUE, BURBANK, CALIFORNIA  
(FILE NO. 109.0884)**

The California Regional Water Quality Control Board, Los Angeles Region (Regional Board) makes the following findings and issues this Order pursuant to California Water Code (CWC) section 13267.

1. The groundwater within the San Fernando Valley Groundwater Basin has been impacted by heavy metals, specifically chromium. As a result of the groundwater impacts, we are investigating potential sources of the contamination. The current investigation, led by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and the Regional Board, is focused on identifying individuals and companies responsible for the chromium contamination in the region and holding them responsible for the investigation and remediation of the affected Site. The above Site is located in the investigative area.
2. The subject property located at 156 West Providencia Avenue, in the City of Burbank, California (the Site) was formerly occupied by Commercial Inspection Services, Incorporated (CIS, Inc.) between 1980 and 1994. CIS, Inc. performed non-destructive testing of aerospace hardware at the Site. Testing services included x-ray, fluorescent, magnetic particle, impregnation, ultrasonic and cleaning. Regional Board files state that CIS, Inc. used and stored chromium containing compounds, including sodium dichromate dihydrate and chrome acid, during their operations at the Site. Regional Board files also state that CIS, Inc. is owned by MAG Investments, Limited. CIS, Inc. previously conducted investigations and remediation activities at the Site which focused on volatile organic compounds (VOCs). However, there is no documentation that any subsurface soil investigation for heavy metals was performed. Therefore, the potential discharge and/or release of heavy metal compounds to the soils at the Site, as a result of CIS, Inc. operations have not been assessed.
3. CWC section 13267(b)(1) states, in part: In conducting an investigation the Regional Board may require that any person who has discharged, discharges, or is suspected of having discharged or, discharging, or who proposes to discharge waste within its region shall furnish, under penalty of perjury, technical or monitoring program reports which the Regional Board requires. The burden, including costs, of these reports shall bear a reasonable relationship to the need for the report and the benefits to be obtained from the reports. In requiring those reports, the Regional Board shall provide the person with a written explanation with regard to the need for the reports, and shall identify the evidence that supports requiring that person to provide the reports.



4. Regional Board staff has obtained evidence indicating that there is or has been a potential for discharge of waste at or from the Site. The supporting evidence includes a Chemical Storage and Use Questionnaire (CUQ) submitted by CIS, Inc. to the Regional Board, dated May 3, 1990, stating the use and storage of chromium containing compounds at the Site. The CUQ indicated that approximately 20 pounds of sodium dichromate dihydrate and approximately 20 pounds of chrome acid were stored at the Site.

CIS, Inc. is among the suspected sources of waste discharge in the USEPA San Fernando Valley Superfund Site (Superfund Site) because of the chemicals used and stored during testing operations at the Site. It is known that groundwater within the Superfund Site, including the vicinity of the CIS, Inc. facility, is contaminated with VOCs and heavy metals, particularly chromium. To date, a complete subsurface investigation of heavy metals in soil or groundwater has not been performed at the Site.

5. This Order identifies MAG Investments, Limited as the entity responsible for the potential unauthorized discharge of waste identified in paragraph one (1) and two (2) because MAG, Investments, Limited acquired CIS, Inc. who own or owned and/or operate or operated the activity that resulted in the potential discharge or waste.
6. This Order requires the persons/entities named herein to prepare and submit a Subsurface Soil Investigation Workplan (Workplan) in order to evaluate the conditions at the Site and determine if any unauthorized release of heavy metal compounds, specifically chromium, has impacted the soils beneath the Site that could consequently pose a threat to groundwater. You are expected to submit a complete Workplan, as required by this Order, to the Regional Board. The Regional Board may reject the Workplan if it is deemed incomplete and/or require revisions to the Workplan under this Order.
7. The Regional Board needs this information in order to determine the subsurface soil conditions at the Site as part of the efforts to identify sources of chromium contamination in the San Fernando Valley.
8. The burdens, including costs, of these reports bear a reasonable relationship to the need for the reports and the benefits to be obtained from the reports. The information is necessary to assure adequate cleanup of the former CIS, Inc. facility, which as described above may have discharged chromium waste detected in the subsurface soil and groundwater and potentially poses significant threats to public health and the environment.
9. The issuance of this Order is an enforcement action by a regulatory agency and is categorically exempt from the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) pursuant to section 15321(a)(2), Chapter 3, Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations. This Order requires submittal of technical and/or monitoring reports and Workplans. The proposed activities under the Workplan are not yet known. It is unlikely that implementation of the Workplan associated with this Order could result in anything more than minor physical changes to the environment. If the implementation may result in significant impacts on the environment, the appropriate lead agency will address the CEQA requirements prior to implementing any Workplan.

10. Any person aggrieved by this action of the Regional Board may petition the State Water Resources Control Board (State Board) to review the action in accordance with Water Code section 13320 and California Code of Regulations, title 23, sections 2050 and following. The State Board must receive the petition by 5:00 p.m., 30 days after the date of this Order, except that if the thirtieth day following the date of this Order falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or state holiday, the petition must be received by the State Board by 5:00 p.m. on the next business day. Copies of the law and regulations applicable to filing petitions may be found on the Internet at the following link:

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/public\\_notices/petitions/water\\_quality](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/public_notices/petitions/water_quality)

or will be provided upon request.

**THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED** that MAG Investments, Limited, pursuant to section 13267(b) of the CWC, is required to submit the following:

1. A Subsurface Soil Investigation Workplan (Workplan) must be submitted by **April 26, 2013**. We are providing a guidance document entitled "*General Work Plan Requirements for a Heavy Metal Soil Investigation*" to assist you with this task. Additional information can be found in our guidance manual entitled "*Interim Site Assessment & Cleanup Guidebook (May1996)*," which can be found on the Internet at the following link:

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles/water\\_issues/programs/remediation/may1996\\_voc\\_guidance.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/losangeles/water_issues/programs/remediation/may1996_voc_guidance.shtml)

2. The Workplan must contain a health and safety plan (HASP), as per the guidelines.
3. The Workplan shall include detailed information of former and existing chromium storage, hazardous waste management, and associated practices.
4. The Workplan must also include proposed soil sampling boring locations which shall extend to a minimum depth of 25 feet below ground surface in the areas of the previous testing processes and waste treatment (sumps, clarifiers, etc.), hazardous waste storage area, and chemical storage area.

The above item shall be submitted to:

Ms. Luz Arteaga  
Water Resources Control Engineer  
Remediation Section  
Los Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board  
320 West 4<sup>th</sup> Street, Suite 200  
Los Angeles, California 90013  
Phone: (213) 576-6783  
Email: [luz.arteaga@waterboards.ca.gov](mailto:luz.arteaga@waterboards.ca.gov)

Pursuant to 13267(a) of the CWC, any person who fails to submit reports in accordance with the Order is guilty of a misdemeanor. Pursuant to section 13268(b)(1) of the CWC, failure to submit the required Workplan described above by the specified due date(s) may result in the imposition of administrative civil liability by the Regional Board in an amount up to one thousand dollars (\$1,000) per day for each day the Workplan is not received after the above due date. These civil liabilities may be assessed by the Regional Board for failure to comply, beginning with the date that the violations first occurred, and without further warning.

The Regional Board, under the authority given by the CWC section 13267, subdivision (b)(1), requires you to include a perjury statement in all reports submitted under the 13267 Order. The perjury statement shall be signed by a senior authorized MAG Investments, Limited representative (not by a consultant). The perjury statement shall be in the following format:

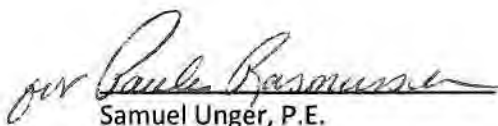
"I, [NAME], certify under penalty of law that this document and all attachments were prepared by me, or under my direction or supervision, in accordance with a system designed to assure that qualified personnel properly gathered and evaluated the information submitted. Based on my inquiry of the person or persons who manage the system, or those persons directly responsible for gathering the information, the information submitted is, to the best of my knowledge and belief, true, accurate, and complete. I am aware that there are significant penalties for submitting false information, including the possibility of fine and imprisonment for knowing violations."

The State Board adopted regulations (Chapter 30, Division 3 of Title 23 & Division 3 of Title 27, California Code of Regulation) requiring the electronic submittal of information (ESI) for all site cleanup programs, starting January 1, 2005. Currently, all of the information on electronic submittals and GeoTracker contacts can be found on the Internet at the following link:

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/ust/electronic\\_submittal](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/ust/electronic_submittal).

To comply with the above referenced regulation, you are required to upload all technical reports, documents, and well data to GeoTracker by the due dates specified in the Regional Board letters and orders issued to you or for the Site. However, the Regional Board may request that you submit hard copies of selected documents and data in addition to electronic submittal of information to GeoTracker.

SO ORDERED.

  
Samuel Unger, P.E.  
Executive Officer

3-11-2013  
Date